

# VIDEO vibes

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## Facelift for 50-year-old favorites



TWO landmark films of 1939 — *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz* — are now enjoying special treatment on video as they celebrate 50 years of sheer entertainment.

The legendary *Gone With the Wind* was the all-time Hollywood hold-out as far as television was concerned. MGM kept it off the small screen until 1976 when the American NBC network paid \$5 million for a single airing.

Two years later, rival network CBS paid an amazing \$38 million to secure television rights for 20 years.

Film buffs have in recent years been able to secure their own copy of the film through video outlets, but to celebrate the golden anniversary distributors CEL Home Video have digitally enhanced the film's soundtrack and released *The Making Of A Legend*, a behind-the-scenes

look at the movie. The multi-Oscar-winning film created a storm when David O. Selznick set about condensing the epic novel for the silver screen. Not least of his troubles was the casting of Vivien Leigh as Scarlett.

The two-hour documentary lets you see just how tireless Selznick was in his efforts to make the film and features audition tapes from budding Scarletts, including Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Katharine Hepburn.

Fans of the Judy Garland classic *The Wizard Of Oz* will be keen to see rare Oz footage in CEL Home Video's anniversary release.

An additional 13 minutes includes Ray Bolger's Scarecrow dance sequence (originally cut from the film), color home videos taken on the Oz set, the dress rehearsal version and the complete soundtrack of the excised jitterbug number; the theatrical release trailer and a rare film clip of Judy Garland accepting her only Oscar, for best performance by a juvenile.

## Freeze FRAMES

WHEN Bernhard Goetz stood up to four subway muggers in 1984 by turning his loaded gun on them, the world sat up and took notice.

After a sensational and controversial court case, Goetz was found not guilty of attempted murder and was proclaimed a hero by many.

Using actors and the actual text of the court case, edited for the sake of the 137-minute video, *The Trial Of Bernhard Goetz* (Vestron) is slow to start, but soon becomes compulsive viewing. Perry Mason, eat your heart out!

## Robot goes nuts and bolts!

EVEN the most skilled thespians can become irritable or temperamental and Johnny Five, star of *Short Circuit 2* (First Release), is no exception.

The likeable robot certainly had his off days, says electronics designer Robert Wilcox. "At one point during the shoot, Johnny stormed off the set and into a rain storm. Moisture in his electrical system caused him to come down with a cold. Then there was the mechanical arthritis, which caused his neck to freeze solid.

"The problem was soon rectified with an old-fashioned remedy — a steaming bowl of chicken soup laced liberally with anti-freeze!"

A follow-up to *Short Circuit*, which dealt with Johnny Five's birth and childhood, this sequel takes him into adolescence. And when Johnny Five comes to town to help his friend Ben (Fisher Stevens) the scene is set for big-town antics.

One of the most spectacular stunts is Johnny's "free-fall" out of a 34th floor window.